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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BURKHARDT, et al. Examiner: Unassigned
Serial No.: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned
(based on PCT/EP01/08634)
Filed: Herewith Docket: 442-140 PCT/US
For: VALVE ARRANGEMENT Dated: April 8, 2002

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date: April 8, 2002 Label No. EL 519 089 913 US
I hereby certify that on the date indicated above, I deposited
paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

A. Bona A. Bona
Name (Print) Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examining the above-identified application, please amend said
application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the present Abstract with the following:

A valve arrangement, which possesses at least one valve, which is has a valve
housing provided with housing ducts. On opposite sides of the valve housing there are
first and a second interfaces for the fitting of a first and a second connection board. Each
connection board comprises at least one connection duct communicating with a housing

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duct and is held on the valve housing because on the one hand it is anchored by way of retaining means on the valve housing and on the other hand is fixed by means of attachment means passing internally externally through the valve housing on the oppositely placed second connection board.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the Title as:

VALVE ARRANGEMENT.

On page 1, before line 1, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is the U.S. National Phase of International Application Number PCT/EP01/0008634 filed on July 26, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

At page 1, please insert the following section heading before paragraph No. 2:

Description of the Prior Art:

At page 1, please insert the following section heading before paragraph No. 4:

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 5, please insert the following section heading before paragraph No. 17:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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At page 6, please insert the following section heading before paragraph No. 22:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

At page 16, please replace the section heading "Claims" with the following:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please delete Claims 1 through 21.

Please add new Claims 22 through 41.

22. A valve arrangement comprising:

at least one valve, which possesses a valve housing provided with housing ducts, such valve housing having on a first side a first interface for the mounting of a first connection board and on a second side opposite to the first side having a second interface for mounting a second connection board, and each connection board has at least one connection duct communicating, adjacent to an interface, with a housing duct, such connection duct being provided, at least in the case of the first connection board, with connection means for the connection of a fluid line, and the first connection board is held on the valve housing by being anchored by at least one of: a retaining means on the valve housing; and an attachment means passing through the valve housing at the second connection board placed at the second interface.

23. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the second connection board is anchored by at least one of said retaining means and said attachment means.

24. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein one or both of the connection boards have an elongated configuration, the retaining means being provided on a terminal region, located on the narrow side, and the attachment means are provided on an opposite terminal region side, located on the narrow side.

25. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the attachment means are constituted by a single attachment screw.

26. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 25, wherein the driven end of the attachment screw is associated with the first connection board.

27. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 25, wherein the attachment screw is provided with the self-taping thread adapted to cut a thread in an attachment hole in the second connection board.

28. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, further comprising a sealing means provided in the transitional zone between communicating housing and connection ducts.

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29. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 28, wherein the sealing means comprises rubber-elastic material in such a manner that they force the first connection board laid in it but not yet secured by the attachment means on the second connection board into a slightly oblique setting in relation to the first interface so that an attachment screw of the attachment means fitted both in the first connection board and also in the valve housing lies skew between these parts and the first connection board is consequently held on the valve housing and cannot be lost.

30. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the retaining means on the respective connection board possess at least one retaining projection which can fit into a retaining well in the valve housing or vice versa.

31. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 30, characterized by two retaining projections arranged in a plane parallel to the associated interface, such retaining projections being arranged in sequence and spaced apart, and by retaining wells of the respective retaining means.

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32. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein at least one of the first and the second interface is provided on the floor of a recess in the valve housing, which on a front side is delimited by an attachment flange of the valve housing which serves for the attachment of the valve housing on a valve drive, as for example in the form of an electromagnetic means or a piezoelectric means.

33. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 32, wherein the retaining means on the valve housing side are provided on the side, which faces the well, of the respective attachment flange.

34. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 32, further comprising an attachment hole extending through the respective attachment flange for the introduction of an assembly screw connecting the attachment flange with a valve drive.

35. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the connection board provided with the retaining means is configured to conceal the retaining means.

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36. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the first connection board is provided with an attachment duct, constituting a power duct, adapted to be connected with a load to be operated.

37. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein the second connection board is provided with at least one supply duct and at least one venting duct as a connection duct.

38. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 37, wherein the second connection board has a further connection duct a power duct adapted to be connected with a load to be operated.

39. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, characterized by a dummy plate for fitting to the first interface instead of first connection board.

40. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein one or both of the connection boards is provided with connection means for the connection of fluid lines.

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41. The valve arrangement as set forth in claim 22, wherein said first and second connection boards having differing connection means, which are able to be mounted in an alternative manner at one and the same interface.

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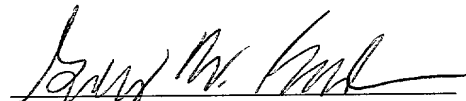
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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination on the merits on the application filed herewith. This Amendment re-writes the claims to eliminate multiple dependencies, the use of reference characters in the claims and abstract and to present the claims in a more traditional United States format.

Accordingly, this case is believed to be in all respects in condition for examination on the merits, and such examination in favorable consideration are respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE :

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

A valve arrangement, which possesses at least one valve [(3)], which is has a valve housing [(5)] provided with housing ducts. On opposite sides of the valve housing [(5)] there are first and a second interfaces [(18 and 19)] for the fitting of a first and a second connection board [(22 and 23)]. Each connection board comprises at least one connection duct communicating with a housing duct and is held on the valve housing [(5)] because on the one hand it is anchored by way of retaining means [(36)] on the valve housing [(5)] and on the other hand is fixed by means of attachment means [(37)] passing internally externally through the valve housing [(5)] on the oppositely placed second connection board [(23)].

[Figure 3.]

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, the Title of the invention has been amended as follows:

[A] VALVE ARRANGEMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

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At page 16, please the section heading has been amended as follows:

[Claims] **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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